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ABSTRACT

The Council for Environmental Education (CEE) is a national British charity governed by its members which include 80 national organizations with a shared belief in the value of education for sustainable development. The CEE works toward achieving shared aims through creating partnerships with its members, national and local government, business and industry, regional and local organizations, and others wishing to support those aims. This report outlines the CEE's approach and its program designed to take the environmental education movement into the 21st century and is written for those who are interested in the work of the CEE and want to know more about its values, aims, and methods and how its program is delivered through partnership with supporters and funders. The report identifies a three-year program against which the CEE's annual reports will provide evaluation of progress and indicate future priorities as part of a rolling program. Contents include a mission statement, executive summary, CEE values and aims, CEE methods of working with members and partners, benefits to partners, CEE role in environmental education over time, CEE contributions to practice and coherence from international to local levels, framework for action, and CEE partnerships for public policy and professional practice. (PVD)

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Council for Environmental Education

Agenda for action 1998-2001

Shaping education for the 21st Century

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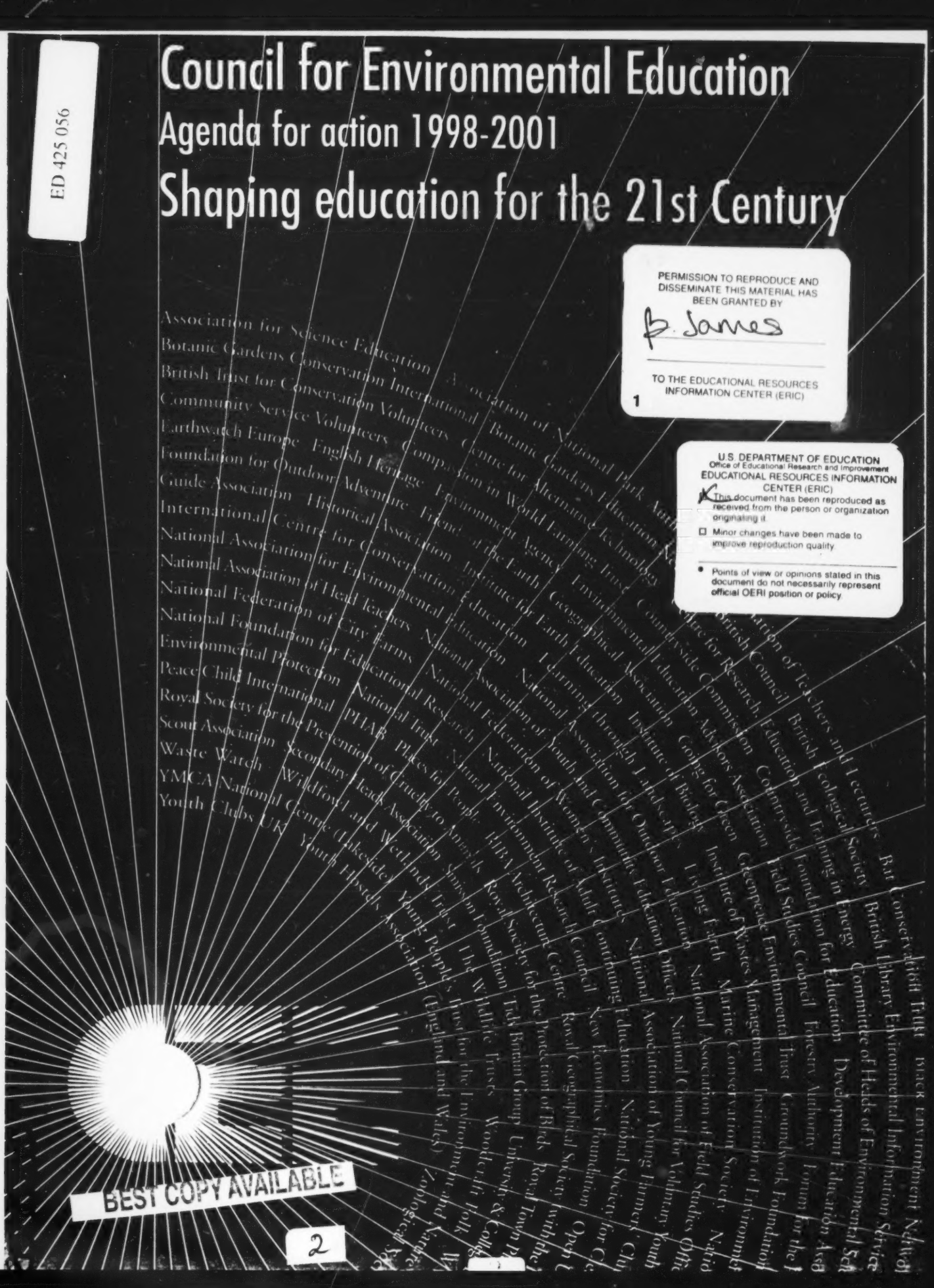
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Institute of Environmental Sciences
Learning through Landscapes
Living Earth
Marine Conservation Society
National Association of Field Studies Officers
National Association of Women's Institutes
National Council for Voluntary Youth Services
National Institute of Adult Continuing Education
National Society for Clean Air
New Economics Foundation
Open University
Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers)
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Royal Town Planning Institute
RIBA Architecture Centre
Tidy Britain Group
University & College Union
Woodcraft Folk
The Wildlife Trusts
The Women's Institute
The Young People's Trust for the Environment and Nature
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Foreword

I am delighted to endorse the Council for Environmental Education's new three year plan, *Shaping education for the 21st Century*. This will take further forward our strategy for education about sustainable development, complementing and strengthening the work of many others in local and central government, business and the voluntary sector.

CEE has played a significant role in raising the profile of education on environmental matters, creating partnerships within and across these sectors. It continues to provide both a national focus and a voice for those committed to sustainable development education. It is both appropriate and timely that, as we move to the 21st century, CEE sets out the new initiatives it will take, and the continuing support that it will provide, to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are at the heart of education policy and practice.

Angela Eagle MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

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The following abbreviations are used in the text:

DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
DfEE	Department for Education and Employment
DFID	Department for International Development
DoE	Department of the Environment
LGA	Local Government Association
LGMB	Local Government Management Board
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
CREATE	Centre for Research, Education and Training in Energy

CEE's mission

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CEE's mission is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are at the heart of education policy and practice.

The purpose of this document

Shaping education outlines CEE's approach and programme designed to take the environmental education movement into the 21st century. It is written for those who are interested in the work of the Council and want to know more about its values, aims and methods and how its programme is delivered through partnership with supporters and funders.

Shaping education identifies a three year programme against which CEE's annual reports will provide evaluation of progress and indicate future priorities as part of a rolling programme.

> *Education is critical for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of the people to address environment and development issues...*
>
> UN Conference on Environment and Development, *Agenda 21*, Rio de Janeiro 1992

2 Executive summary

> *CEE AIMS*
> * *to influence and develop public policy*
> * *to enhance the quality of professional practice*
> * *to increase the effectiveness of the environmental education movement*

The Council for Environmental Education (CEE) is a national charity governed by its members - 80 national organisations with a shared belief in the value of education for sustainable development.

CEE works towards the achievement of shared aims through the creation of partnerships with its members, national and local government, business and industry, regional and local organisations and others wishing to support those aims.

The Council enables its partners to access a national network, influence the development of national policy and practice, advance their own professional development and identify their future direction.

The benefits gained from working with CEE lead to the achievement of best value for partners' support and investment.

Since 1968 CEE's role and reputation has evolved into its current status, providing the national focus and voice of environmental education in England and playing an influential role internationally.

CEE's three year agenda demonstrates its commitment to achieving a national strategy for education for sustainable development through a programme designed to influence public policy and enhance professional practice.

Shaping education for the 21st Century **can only be achieved by working together. CEE wants to work with *all* organisations that are committed to its aims.**

CEE - values and aims

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CEE is a non-governmental organisation, registered as a charity and governed by its members. Its members are national organisations and agencies in the public, private and voluntary sectors with a shared belief in the value of education for sustainable development.

CEE's values

The Council for Environmental Education believes in -

* the aims of sustainable development
* education as an essential means of achieving those aims
* partnership as a way of working which reflects sustainable principles, leading to:
  - mutual understanding
  - efficient use of resources
  - high standards
  - effective achievement of purpose

CEE's values dictate its aims and ways of working.

> *"The Government has pledged that concern for the environment will be at the heart of policy making. Education will be given the highest possible priority. If people are to play their full part in achieving a sustainable future, they need to know how their actions at home and at work affect the environment."*
>
> John Prescott
> Deputy Prime Minister
> September 1997

CEE's aims

The Council for Environmental Education aims:

* to influence and develop public policy at all levels
* to enhance the quality of professional practice
* to increase the effectiveness of the environmental education movement

4 CEE - adding value

> *CEE adds value to the work of its members and partners, carrying out those functions which cannot be achieved individually*

CEE's ways of working reflect a commitment to the principles of sustainable development. It aims to be inclusive and solutions-based, working towards the achievement of shared aims through the creation of partnerships.

* CEE organises national conferences and events, coordinates consultations with and on behalf of its partners, and provides a comprehensive information service.
* CEE supports issue-focused working groups drawn from member organisations and beyond, is represented on a range of international and national policy committees, and provides consultancy services to its partners.
* CEE aims to add value to the work of its members and partners, carrying out only those functions which cannot be achieved individually.

CEE's members

CEE's membership currently includes 72 national organisations, 8 government agencies, 130 local authority departments and over100 regional and local associates, providing a network with the potential to influence millions of people of all ages.

CEE is governed by its member organisations through a representative structure which identifies policy, manages implementation and monitors and evaluates effectiveness

CEE is strong through the strength of its members, as demonstrated by the enormous range of interests represented in the list of members and associates.

CEE's core team of staff uses the knowledge, resources and influence of the Council's members to create partnerships to advance environmental education.

CEE publishes a directory of CEE members' aims and activities which is available on request.

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CEE's partners

CEE's partners are its members, its associates and, potentially, *all* organisations whose interests and aims support education for sustainable development.

CEE seeks to work with partners from government departments and agencies, local authorities, business and industry, professional associations, educational institutions, non-governmental organisations and other sectors.

As commitment to the goals of Agenda 21 has increased at national and local level, so the number and diversity of CEE's partners has grown.

This reflects specifically

* recognition by all sectors of the essential role of education in the Agenda 21 process
* support for Local Agenda 21 education initiatives from a range of local authority departments.

In response, cross-sectoral collaboration and the development of targeted services to local authority departments are key elements of CEE's future programme.

CEE 's funding base is provided by members' contributions, government grants, local authority subscriptions, charitable donations and support from the corporate sector.

> *I want all local authorities in the UK to adopt Local Agenda 21 strategies by the year 2000...*
>
> Tony Blair, at the UN General Assembly Special Session on the Environment, New York, 23 June 1997

6 Benefits to partners

Working with CEE gives all of its partners the opportunity to achieve shared goals and to contribute to the emerging national strategy for education for sustainable development.

Through CEE's range of national consultation processes and events, its partners benefit from highly valued access to influence, expertise and information.

> *We must all work together to make lasting improvements in the quality of life of local people and their children - working to meet environmental and economic and social goals.*
>
> John Prescott
> at the LGA's Local Agenda 21:
> the Corporate Challenge Conference,
> 14 January 1998

CEE enables its partners to :

* influence the development of national policy and practice
* access a national network and overview of the field
* identify their niche and future direction
* advance their professional development and status.

CEE's partners are consequently able to achieve the best value and the best results from their own contributions and investment in the field.

In many ways CEE can be seen as a catalyst, bringing together two or more partners and causing a reaction and a result which would otherwise not have existed.

Growing in stature

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CEE has played a crucial enabling role in specific areas of environmental education which underline its pivotal presence within the movement today.

1988 *National Curriculum*: co-ordinated the securing of environmental education as a cross-curricular theme in the National Curriculum.

1989-98 *INSET 5-16*: developed in-service teacher training modules published with the support of PowerGen.

1990 *A Case for the Curriculum*: secured the place of environmental youth work within the proposed core curriculum for the youth service.

1990 *EARTHworks*: published the first resource materials for environmental youth work with DfEE and BP support.

1991-94 *Building Support for Environmental Education*: co-ordinated comprehensive information needs research programme with Loughborough University supported by Esso and DoE.

1992 *Good Earth-keeping*: published document as member of the Education for Sustainability Forum to promote the role of education at the Earth Summit, supported by the UK Government.

1992-95 *Education and Training for Business and the Environment*: co-ordinated national seminar programme for higher education, with DoE, WWF-UK and eleven higher education institutions.

1996 *Our World Our Responsibility*: published handbook for developing whole-school policies, supported by Coca-Cola and RSPB.

1997 *Youth Action and the Environment*: published a pioneering guide to environmental youth work, with Russell House Publishing.

1997 *Educating for Life*: researched and published guidelines for biodiversity education, supported by DETR.

1998 *Inspecting the Environmental Dimension of Schools*: developed and published a checklist for school inspectors, supported by OFSTED and Esso.

> *Education is critical for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of the people to address environment and development issues...*
> *it is also critical for achieving environmental and ethical awareness, values and attitudes, skills and behaviour consistent with sustainable development and for effective public participation in decision-making.*
>
> UNCED *Agenda 21* (Chapter 36 Promoting education, public awareness and training) 1992

8 Coherence at all levels

CEE's current programme contributes to policy, practice and coherence within the environmental education movement at international, national and local levels.

> *The changes in human attitudes that we call for depend on a vast campaign of education, debate and public participation. This campaign must start now if sustainable human progress is to be achieved.*
>
> World Commission on Environment and Development, *Our Common Future*, 1987

International

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN): CEE is a UK representative on the IUCN European Committee on Environmental Education, contributing to the international context.

United Nations Environment and Development Programme - UK Committee: CEE representation on UNED-UK provides a direct link to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and access to policy making in relation to Agenda 21.

National

CEE is represented on the following national groups:

Government Expert Panel on Education for Sustainable Development (DETR/DfEE)

Government Development Awareness Advisory Group (DFID)

Local Agenda 21 UK Steering Committee

Going for Green Eco-Schools Advisory Panel

WWF-UK Education Committee

Field Studies Council Executive Committee

National Association for Environmental Education Executive Committee

CREATE Energy Education Forum

CEE's own national initiatives include the following:

National Curriculum Review: contributing to the review of the school curriculum for the year 2000

Biodiversity Education: following up the recommendations of its research publication, *Educating for Life*.

Built Environment Education: a new working group establishing a forum for all national organisations in this sector.

Code of Practice for the Production of Educational Materials: a DETR funded working group producing guidelines to be published by the Government.

National Young People's Environment Network: a DfEE funded collaborative project enabling young people to convert concerns into action.

> *Sustainable development is a very simple idea. It is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come...*
>
> Opportunities for Change: consultation paper on a revised UK strategy for sustainable development, DETR, February 1998

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Framework for action

> *Every child should be educated on development issues, so that they can understand the key global considerations which will shape their lives...*
>
> *Eliminating World Poverty: a challenge for the 21st century*, DFID White Paper, November 1997

CEE's role is to provide a strategic framework within which its members can work towards a common goal.

CEE will maintain the momentum towards a coherent national strategy for environmental education, initiated by *Taking Environmental Education into the 21st Century*, the Government strategy launched in 1996, and continued through the present Government's commitment to education for sustainable development.

This commitment was most recently demonstrated by the setting up of the Expert Panel on Education for Sustainable Development, with a joint secretariat provided by the DETR and the DfEE. CEE's representation on this panel ensures that its own strategic approach to the development of a national framework will feed directly into government policy making at the highest level, and maintains CEE's pivotal position.

CEE has identified three elements of the framework for priority action:

* Annual state of the art monitoring and reporting, charting progress and needs.
* Strategies for supporting local authorities and the Local Agenda 21 process.
* Raising the profile through focused media and public affairs activities.

Partnerships for public policy and professional practice

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CEE's future programme will support the development of policy, practice and coherence through:

UK Alliance: strengthen the partnership with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Government Expert Panel on Education for Sustainable Development: represent the voice of CEE members and contribute information and research to the development of a national strategy.

Education and Agenda 21: work with the Local Agenda 21 UK Steering Committee, the LGA and the LGMB to provide guidance on education support for Local Agenda 21 processes.

Supporting Local Authorities: develop a package of CEE services to support the needs of different local authority departments in conjunction with the LGA and the LGMB.

State of the Art Reports: monitor and report annually on trends and developments in policy and practice, highlighting the need for future research.

Information Gateway: develop a front page Internet Website providing coherent access to the environmental education domain.

Pre-inspection Guidance: work with local authority advisers/inspectors and head teachers to guide schools in how to prepare for OFSTED inspections.

12 Partnerships for public policy ...

Young People & Agenda 21 Conference: explore the role of young people and the youth work sector in Local Agenda 21 processes.

Training Services: co-ordinate training for school inspectors, teachers, youth workers, local agenda 21 officers and other staff of local authorities and member organisations.

Education for Biodiversity: organise national seminar, jointly hosted by DETR and DfEE.

Information Services: develop an enhanced system of information provision for CEE members and key sectors.

Green Envelope: develop a co-ordinated national distribution scheme to schools, combining and adding value to existing schemes.

Corporate Sector Support: specialist service for corporate sponsors to provide guidance on the evaluation of project proposals and the achievement of best value.

National Partnership Conference: organise a residential conference to disseminate, evaluate and celebrate progress.

> *Sustainable living must be the new pattern for all levels: individuals, communities, nations and the world. To adopt the new pattern will require a significant change in the attitudes and practices of many people. We will need to ensure that education programmes reflect the importance of an ethic for living sustainably and that information campaigns are mounted to disseminate it...*
>
> International Union for the Conservation of Nature, United Nations Environment Programme and World Wide Fund for Nature, *Caring for the Earth: a strategy for sustainable living* 1991

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and professional practice

Shaping education for the 21st Century can only be achieved by working together. We hope that all organisations that share our vision of education for sustainable development will demonstrate that commitment by working with CEE.

To discuss your involvement please contact -
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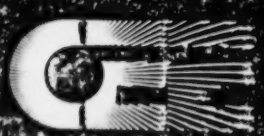
> *CEE provides the framework within which CEE partners can operate and co-operate*

I believe that CEE can go forward with confidence to meet the changes and challenges of a new millennium. The task that CEE has to do is still as urgent and as important as it has ever been. Perhaps the main difference now from five or ten years ago is that whole sectors, even governments, are acknowledging the scale of the task and beginning to respond more realistically and creatively to it.

CEE will continue to play a leading role and will achieve its aims, but only with your support.

Roy Atkinson
Chair of the Council for Environmental Education



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